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Message Text

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AF/EX - MR. GREEN (IN DRAFT)
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---------- 046136
R 122033Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABVD, BEXP, NI

SUBJECT: FY 1977 COMMERCIAL BUDGET

1. DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING REQUESTING FUNDS IN FY 77 COMMERCIAL BUDGET FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF "BUSINESSMEN'S RECEPTION CENTERS" IN SEVEN CITIES, INCLUDING LAGOS. THESE CENTERS COULD OPERATE IN EMBASSIES IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE OR IN "STORE FRONTS" DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF PARTICULAR POSTS. THEY WOULD BE MANNED BY TRAINED PERSONNEL TO ASSIST U.S. BUSINESSMEN. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT SUCH CENTERS WOULD BE COMBINED WITH THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARIES, WORLD TRADE DIRECTORY REPORTS AND TRADE OPPORTUNITY SECTIONS AS WELL AS MEDIA FACILITIES SUCH AS VIDEO TAPE RECORDERS, CASSETTES AND SUPPLIER AND AGENT INFORMATION. THEY WOULD BE SITUATED SO THAT THE AMERICAN AND LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE MAXIMUM ACCESS.

2. IN OUR VIEW IDEA HAS GREAT MERIT FOR SITUATION SUCH AS THAT OF LAGOS WHERE THERE IS LARGE AND GROWING INFLUX OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN IN NEED OF ALL ASSISTANCE WE CAN GIVE THEM. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY OF SUCH A RECEPTION CENTER IN LAGOS, PROPOSED LOCATION, AND WHETHER
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IT COULD BE MANNED BY EXISTING PERSONNEL. KISSINGER

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